

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/852,372

Examiner

Peter Poltorak

Applicant(s)

GULICK ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed on 11/03/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,9,12-28,31-47 and 50-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted:
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date enclosed
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Appeal Brief filed on 11/03/05.

Examiner Amendment

2. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

The following changes were authorized (and permission to make same by Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Sincell on 01/19/05).

3. Please cancel claims 7-8 and 10, 29 and 48 and amend claims 1, 21, 34, 39 and 40 as follow:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

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A system, comprising:

a processor configured to operate in an operating mode, wherein the operating mode is one of a plurality of operating modes including a secure operating mode;
one or more secured assets coupled to the processor;

security hardware configured to control access to the secured assets dependant upon the operating mode of the processor, wherein the security hardware is configured to allow access to the secure assets in the secure operating mode, and wherein the security hardware comprises a mailbox RAM configured to store input and output data, wherein the mailbox RAM includes an inbox for storing input data for the one or more secured assets and an outbox for storing output data from the one or more secured assets [.]

wherein the security hardware comprises:

a duration timer configured to operate while the processor is operating in the secure

mode, wherein the duration timer is configured to provide an indication of how

long the processor is in the secure mode.

a kick-out timer configured to provide an indication to the processor of when the

processor is to exit the secure mode.

a re-initiation timer configured to provide an indication to the processor to re-enter the secure mode.

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Claims 7-8 and 10 (Currently Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended)

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A method for providing access to secured assets in a computer system, the method comprising:

switching the computer system between a first operating mode and a second operating mode,

where second operating mode comprises a secure operating mode;

restricting access to the secured assets in response to the computer system being in the first operating mode; and

permitting access to the secured assets in response to the computer system being in the secure operating mode, wherein permitting access to the secured assets comprises reading output data from or writing input data to a mailbox RAM from which the secure assets write the output data and read the input data [.];

measuring a time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode in response to providing the control signal to the computer system to exit the secure operating mode; and

providing a control signal to the computer system to re-enter the secure operating mode in response to the time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode exceeding a predetermined length of time.

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Claim 29 (Currently Cancelled)

Claim 34 (Currently Amended)

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A computer system comprising:

means for switching the computer system between a first operating mode and a second operating mode, where second operating mode comprises a secure operating mode;

means for restricting access to the secured assets in response to the computer system being in the first operating mode; and

means for permitting access to the secured assets in response to the computer system being in the secure operating mode, wherein permitting access to the secured assets comprises reading output data from or writing input data to a mailbox RAM from which the secure assets write the output data and read the input data [.]

the computer readable program storage device encoded with instructions that measure a time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode in response to providing a control signal to the computer system to exit the secure operating mode; and

provide a control signal to the computer system to re-enter the secure operating mode in response to the time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode exceeding a predetermined length of time.

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Claim 39 (Currently Amended)

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A system comprising:

means for processing in an operating mode, wherein the operating mode is one of a plurality of operating modes including a secure operating mode;

one or more secured means coupled to the means for processing, wherein the one or more secured means comprise one or more of the group consisting of:

means for generating a random number or nonce;

means for storing secure management data;

means for generating a monotonic value; and means for storing secure data; and

means for controlling access to the one or more secured means dependant upon the operating mode of the processor, wherein the one or more secured means comprise

means for allowing access to the secure assets in the secure operating mode, and

wherein the means for allowing access comprises a mailbox RAM configured to

store input and output data, wherein the mailbox RAM includes an inbox for storing

input data for the one or more secured assets and an outbox for storing output data

from the one or more secured assets [.];

a computer readable program storage device encoded with instructions that

measure a time period in which the system is out of the secure operating mode in

response to providing a control signal to the computer system to exit the secure

operating mode; and

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provide a control signal to the computer system to re-enter the secure operating mode in response to the time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode exceeding a predetermined length of time.

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Claim 40 (Currently Amended)

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A computer readable program storage device encoded with instructions that when executed by a computer system, performs a method of providing access to secured assets in the computer system, the method comprising;

switching the computer system between a first operating mode and a second operating mode,

where second operating mode comprises a secure operating mode;

restricting access to the secured assets in response to the computer system being in the first operating mode; and

permitting access to the secured assets in response to the computer system being in the secure operating mode, wherein permitting access to the secured assets comprises reading output data from or writing input data to a mailbox RAM from which the secure assets write the output data and read the input data [.]

measuring a time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode in response to providing the control signal to the computer system to exit the secure operating mode; and

providing a control signal to the computer system to re-enter the secure operating mode in response to the time period in which the computer system is out of the secure operating mode exceeding a predetermined length of time.

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Allowable Subject Matter


4. Claims 1-6, 9, 12-28, 31-47 and 50-52 are allowed. Claims 7-8, 10-11, 29-30 and 48-49 have been canceled.
5. Applicant Appeal's arguments filed on 11/03/05 are partially persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-10, 12-29, 31-48, 50-52 has been withdrawn in the light of the specification and in light of the agreement reached on the 01/19/06 (*See the Interview Summary*).


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Poltorak whose telephone number is (571) 272-3840. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 until 5:00, and every other Friday from 9:00 until 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on (571) 272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.


1/21/06


KIM VU
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